GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the report recently issued by United Nations Human Development for the year 2001:

(b) if so, whether it has been mentioned in this report that the gap in the economic conditions in India between the rich and poor and urban and rural has widened in the nineties and will continue to widen during the next decade also;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge this gap during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER O STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 FOR ANSWE ON 13.03.2002 REGARDING UNITED NATIONS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The Human Development Report, 2001, of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) does not mention about the widening gap in the economic conditions between rich and the poor and the urban and rural in India.

In fact, the Report mentions that China and India are two countries with low but rapidly growing per capita incomes and large populations which deserve special consideration. In China, inequality has followed a U-shaped pattern, with inequality falling until the mid-1980s and rising since. The position is better in India, with inequality falling until recently, and then coming to a halt. The percentage of population in poverty has continued to decline. GDP growth in post economic reforms period has improved from an average of about 5.7 per cent in 1980s to about 6.5 per cent in Eighth and Ninth Plan periods making India one of the ten fastest growing developing countries. India has jumped up 13 places to rank 115 on Human Development Index among 162 countries and territories ranked by UNDP`s HDR for 2001.

(d): The Tenth Five Year Plan is currently under formulation. However, the Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan mentions that the issues of equity and social justice would be explicitly addressed in the Plan.